

A Message from the Head Master

As we end the first month of the year, I send my heartfelt congratulations to all of those who have managed to stick to their new year's pledges. I take my hat off to every one of you! From my perspective, the month of January has simply flown by and February now beckons with the promise of many exciting events for children to get involved in. It also includes something new for parents in the form of our Learning in Action Workshops which begin on Friday with a Maths theme, led by Mr Morris. Please do come along and join in the conversation.

This week we congratulate all of the children in Year 6 who took part in the Academic Scholarship process. Every one of the children should feel proud of the manner in which they approached these challenging papers and I feel certain that they will all be better for the experience. Well done to Alfie, Archie, Izzy, Mimi, Jesse, Owain, Charlie, Nathan and Edie, all of whom were awarded Academic Scholarships to our Senior School.

I also wanted to share with you the news that Mr Howkins will not be in school from the 12th February through until the end of this term. He has had a date come through for his hip surgery and we wish him well for a quick recovery. In his absence, I would ask that parents contact form teachers with any pastoral queries or concerns. Mrs Clifford will be standing in as our Designated Safeguarding Lead and our Deputy Bursar, Mrs Lamacraft will be our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Have a lovely weekend.

Whole School News

Nursery – Year 6 Learning in Action Workshop for Parents Friday, 7th February

Our first Learning in Action workshop will take place on Friday 7th February and will follow on from the Prep Awards Assembly to which all parents are warmly invited. They will run from 9.00 am – 9.45 am. These workshops are designed to provide advice, support and a listening ear so that parents and teachers can better work together for the benefit of the children. For our first workshop, Head of Maths and Assistant Head (Curriculum), Mr Dan Morris will be looking at Numeracy in Years 3 to 6 and with the help of colleagues will be providing practical tips on how parents can help their children. All parents of Pre-Prep and Prep children are very welcome to attend.

Nursery – Year 6 140th Russell Anniversary Party Friday, 6th March

The next event from the Development Office is the 140th Russell Anniversary Pasta Party on Friday, 6th March. If you would like to join in with this event tickets are available by following this link.

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/book/event?embed&eid=9217>

Prep News

Years 5 & 6 Young Voices DVD

DVDs of the Young Voices concert are available to order. If you would like to order one, please fill in the form that came with the Young Voices T-Shirt and send it into Mrs Cracknell with the payment of £9.99 by no later than Friday 7th February. If you haven't got the form please send the payment in in a named envelope.

Year 3 – 6 Curriculum Enrichment: 'Adventures in Thinking' Monday, 3rd February and 9th March

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Weaver from our Senior School will be running her second workshop in Philosophy on Monday, 3rd February with a third on the 9th March, from 4.45 pm to 5.30 pm at the Prep School. The workshops are open to any child in Years 3 - 6, and we would encourage everyone who has an interest in 'Thinking' to come along! Each session will have a few minutes introducing what we mean by philosophy and considering its usefulness.

Permission is given for children to miss their normal Afterschool Clubs on these occasions if they wish to attend.

Year 4 Play in a Day Tuesday, 4th February

Our Year 4 Play in a Day is taking place on Tuesday, 4th February. Parents are welcome to attend the performance at 4.00 pm in the Prep Hall. If possible the children need to wear black or very dark clothes. Please no logos or motifs. Their day will be based on the Olympics.

Year 4 Parent Tea Wednesday, 5th February 3.45 pm – 4.25 pm

Year 4 are delighted to invite their parents to tea on Wednesday, 5th February. Year 5 will be preparing some delicacies for their parents to sample.

Years 3 – 6 Prize Giving Assembly & Coffee Morning Friday, 7th February

Our Prep Coffee Morning will commence at 8.15 am in the Atrium and this will be followed by the Prize Giving Assembly at 8.45 am in the Prep Hall.

Years 3 – 6 FOBP Disco Friday, 7th February 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm

The Prep Disco will take place on Friday 7th February from 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm. Tickets for this event are now available from the office and will cost £5. The ticket price will include a light supper and a drink. There will be sweets on sale and we suggest a maximum of £5 as spending money.

Year 3 – 6 Fencing, Art and Ballet Club Friday, 7th February

Fencing, Art and Ballet Club are cancelled on this evening due to the Pre-Prep Party and the Disco.

Year 6 Dissection Tuesday 11th February

As part of our current Science topic about Light and how we see, Year 6 students have the opportunity to take part in a dissection lesson on Tuesday 11th February. It will be led by a member of the Senior School's Biology department. The children will be working in small groups and will dissect an organ that links closely to their learning. Should your child NOT wish to participate, could you please notify the office in writing asap. An alternative activity will be available.

Spring Concert Wednesday, 12th February 7.00 pm

Some of our pupils are performing in this concert at Exeter Cathedral and will already have received a separate email. If you would like to watch, tickets are now available for Blundell's Spring Concert: A Time To Dance via the online booking system - please click on the following link to book your tickets: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/PJU>. Tickets are priced at £5.00 each. Anyone requiring additional adult tickets will need to pay the charge via the online booking system. Please could parents of pupils taking part let Mrs Cracknell know if they will be collecting their child from the cathedral after the concert.

Pre-Prep News

Nursery and Pre-Prep drop off

Please can we remind all parents that the doors open at 8.30 am for drop off by 8.40 am. Registration takes place at 8.40 am before the children move into scheduled lessons/activities or assembly. Thank you for your support with getting children into classrooms on time.

Toys

Please can we ask that toys from home do not come into school. If a child has something very special to share with their class, please do bring that in to share.

Nursery Postponed Activity Afternoon Wednesday, 5th February

We have postponed the Nursery Activity Afternoon until Wednesday, 18th March. More details will follow closer to the event.

Nursery – Year 2 FOBP Pre-Prep Party Friday, 7th February 3.45 pm – 5.30 pm

The Pre-Prep Party with Professor Bumble will be taking place on Friday, 7th February from 3.45 pm – 5.30 pm. The ticket price of £5 will include a light tea. Tickets are now available from the Office. Owls will be running for those children who have not purchased a ticket.

Year 1 – 2

Art Club

Friday, 7th February

Art Club is cancelled on this night due to the Pre-Prep Party.

Year 2

Glass Studio Visit

Thursday, 13th February

On Thursday 13th February Year 2 will be visiting a glass studio in Thelbridge. This is a wonderful opportunity to see how glass is made and shaped and supports our current Science topic on Materials. The children should come to school in their normal school uniform and we will be travelling by mini bus. The children will only be out in the morning and will be back in school for lunch as normal.